THE PACIFIC

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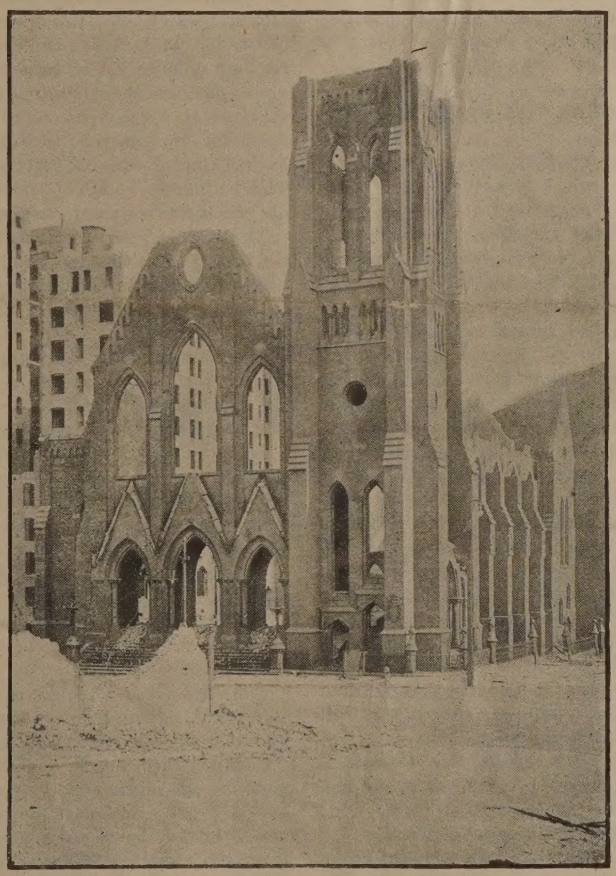

Ruins of First Congregational Church
San Francisco

THE PACIFIC

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W. W. FERRIER, Editor
2716 Hillegass Ave., Berkeley

PATIENCE AND LOVE AND SORROW.

"Patience must dwell with Love, for Love and Sorrow
Have pitched their tents together here;
Love all alone will build a house to-morrow,
And Sorrow not be near.
To-day for Love's sake hope, still hope in sorrow;
Rest in her shade and hold her dear;
To-day she nurses thee; and lo! to-morrow
Love only will be near."

CONDITIONS IN THE CHURCHES THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY.

The Monday meeting of the Congregational ministers of San Francisco and vicinity is looked forward to each week now with much interest. There seems to be a greater value in our fellowship than before the earthquake and the fire. Brethren wish to get together in these days of distress and to learn how things are going with one another.

There was a good attendance at the meeting last Monday in Pacific Seminary, Berkeley, and reports were listened to with eagerness. The endeavor in each church now is to get back to normal conditions as soon as possible. However, many pastors feel that the regular and usual work of the pastorate is yet somewhat incidental with them.

The Rev. L. D. Rathbone, pastor of the North Berkeley Church, reported that he had made a visit to Santa Rosa, where he was pastor for several years, and that he had had there two of the saddest days of his life. Santa Rosa, he said, has suffered terribly. He did not meet many people who had not had friends or relatives killed, and some had been burned to death after being pinned under fallen walls. Many of our church people, it was ascertained, had lost all the accumulation of years, and the church finds itself unable consequently to pay a pastor's salary and other current expenses. But Mr. Patten has told the people that he will stand by them and share with them the losses and burdens. About $750 will be needed for the repairing of the building.

Mr. C. H. Ham, of the Third Church, of San Francisco, stated that there had been no opportunity as yet to get the members of that church together, but expressed himself as being in favor of rebuilding and continuing the work.

The Rev. S. C. Patterson, pastor of Bethany Church, spoke of several families connected with his church being burned out and of one woman having become insane. But little employment is in sight and the future cannot be predicted with any accuracy. Mr. Patterson expressed the opinion that Bethany Church would in a movement for union with the Third, go so far as to give up its name and location and enter into an arrangement to build anew for a united church at any favorable point.

Dr. Adams was of opinion that it might turn out that the location of the First Church, on the corner of Post and Mason, would prove to be better for the next ten or fifteen years than it had been for many years in the past. The disaster, it was stated, had left the membership largely without income, and for the church it will be like beginning at the bottom and building up a new enterprise. The cost of the building and its furnishings had been about $125,000, but it could not be duplicated at the present time for less than $150,000. The insurance was only $40,000.

For the present the First Church will continue to worship with the Plymouth people on Post Street, between Webster and Buchanan.

It would not surprise us to see the First Church holding services after a few weeks within the walls of its ruined building.

Following close upon all the loss by earthquake and fire has come the death of Mrs. Dexter, wife of D. Gilbert Dexter, one of the deacons and for many years one of the most helpful men in the church. Mrs. Dexter's death is spoken of by Dr. Adams as a heavy loss to the church.

The Rev. E. L. Walz said that there was some drunkenness in their part of the city, making women reluctant to go out at night. Nevertheless there were four women at the prayer meeting last week. Seven men were in attendance,, several of whom walked five miles. People continue to scatter. Nothing definite yet as to place for regular services. May put up a shed on the church lot. However the best place for services at present seems to be some distance away. The need for the proper reestablishment of the work of the Fourth Church is for a building which will cost about $10,000. The estimated value of the property destroyed was $6,000, on which there was an insurance of $2,500.

The Rev. Jee Gam stated that he was in a very unsettled condition. The Chinese families are scattered and many are likely to settle in the country. Perhaps the Lord wanted a scattering, he continued; a scattering is a good thing sometimes.

The family of Jee Gam narrowly escaped with their lives. All his books and sermons and papers were burned. All that he saved was a small New Testament which he had with him at Martinez when the fire swept over his house.

Jee Gam stated that he was not in favor of Hunter's Point for the Chinese. Many, he said, wanted to go back and rebuild wherever they owned property.

The insurance on the Mission building amounted to only $5,000.

The headquarters of the Rev. Jee Gam are now at the Chinese Mission in Berkeley, 1917 Addison Street.

We find that the disastrous effects are wide-spread—reaching far beyond the people of the localities that were severely devastated.

The Rev. B. M. Palmer, pastor of the Fruitvale Church, a suburb of Oakland out toward Haywards, says that a subscription of $70 a month, made recently for the current expenses of the church, has been cancelled by vote of the church. On account of the losses of the people interested in one way and another in San Francisco it was deemed wise not to hold them to their pledges. As to its current obligations the church will start anew.

The Rev. M. B. Fisher states that the recent pledges toward the amount needed to secure the loan to Plymouth Church, Oakland, from the Church Building Society, can be paid only in part, and that his church has received quite a set back financially.

Investigation shows that Market Street Church, Oakland, which at first was thought to have sustained very slight damage, will have to expend about $500 for repairs.

The Ocean View Church, San Francisco, was moved considerably from its foundation—and the parsonage also.

Mr. Kirtland, the pastor at Redwood, writes: "The church building was thrown from its foundation except as to the front wall which clung. From the middle of the building to the back it moved two feet to the east and settled two feet. This twisted it badly out of shape, and wrecked it so badly that we are unable to use it until it can be raised. All of the plastering will have to come off and the building ceiled. We are worshipping at present with the Baptist people, but are looking for a tent for the summer."

Reports from the South Berkeley Church show considerable discouragement, many people having been thrown out of their employment in the city. The first thought on the part of some was to close the church for a time, but more sober judgment led to a decision quite the contrary.

The reports from Olivet Church, San Francisco, where the Rev. B. F. Sargent is pastor, state that only two families were burned out, but that many are out of work.

From Bethlehem comes word that the people had their nerves so shattered that they stand on the verge of a panic, and that many thereabouts are moving out.

From the Rev. R. B. Cherington, of Sunnyvale, comes word that the chairs which were ordered for the new building had been burned in the city, but that the building was damaged as to the plastering only, and that $75 will repair it. The edifice of the Union Church, at Curpertino, sustained the loss of its plaster, and a young lady in that community was killed.

Among the many things showing how even our strongest churches will suffer is a statement by the Rev. C. R. Brown, of the First Church of Oakland, that pews are being given up in that church and subscriptions are being cancelled. Mr. Brown's connection with the relief work leads him to the conclusion that it will require long and patient effort to get a large part of the population that was south of Market Street into satisfactory industrial relations, and he sees that many here and there are likely to lose their grit and in the hard struggle to get established again, will sink down to lower conditions.

Such are the problems in part which the churches of San Francisco and vicinity are facing to-day.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE PACIFIC.

Of course The Pacific will go on. This was our decision from the beginning—or from the ending, whichever point may be considered; for there was both an ending and a beginning. The ending came first, when the earthquake and the fire wiped out a large part of San Francisco. Then followed the beginning.

It would be no more foolish to entertain the idea of not reestablishing the old First Church in the city where it has served so nobly for more than half a century, than it would be to conclude that Pacific Coast Congregationalism can get along without its paper, which has served every interest for fifty-five years, and which is no less needed to-day than at any other period in our history.

As to plans nothing very definite can be stated just now. For a few weeks yet we shall continue to issue only four pages, but in a short time we shall get back to the usual size.

The letters received since the great calamity show that The Pacific has a warm place in the hearts of people all over the coast.

Geo. H. Himes wrote from Portland on the 1st of May: "The dear old Pacific, on the 'quarter shell,' dated April 26th, arrived last night. I rejoice that you have been spared to continue your good work. The Pacific must not be given up. There ought to be one thousand Congregationalists on the Pacific Coast who would cheerfully give $10.00 each to place the paper on its feet again. My $10.00 is ready. I wish it were a hundred. I read every line in the little paper. I thank God for the spirit you show. Cast down you are of course, but not disheartened. Good will come out of this appalling calamity in some way. I cannot help believing that the Pacific Coast will be unified in many respects as never before. I am proud of Portland's response to the call for help. In this extremity, has been found God's opportunity to emphasize His fatherhood by an appeal to men to show their brotherhood."

Superintendent Clapp, of the Home Missionary Society, for Oregon, wrote on May the 5th: "We can poorly spare The Pacific. It must be kept going for the interests of our work on the coast. If I knew how I would help you more."

The Rev. Dr. Geo. R. Wallace, of Spokane, Wash., says: "Good for you to get out an issue of The Pacific in such chaotic conditions! I was glad to see it, but did not expect it. Of course the paper must have suffered heavy loss. Now for a suggestion: Why should not the subscribers for The Pacific just consider their subscriptions run out, whether they are or not, and each pay a year or two in advance, sending the cash at once? This would help the problem some. And if each subscriber made a small additional donation toward an equipment the burden would be easier still."

Mr. O. W. Lord, secretary of the water company at Eureka, writes: "The abbreviated edition of The Pacific of April 26th came to-day. I was very glad to see it. We hope your loss is not so great that you will not be able to continue publishing The Pacific, as it is necessary to have a church paper on the coast."

The Rev. W. C. Merritt, of Tacoma, suggests: "Make your issues less expensive for a time until you can get on your feet. I am sure every one would wish it."

And the Rev. John Reid, of Tacoma, sent the following encouragement: "It cheered my heart to get that copy of The Pacific, with a smile on its face, a tear in its eye, and a tremor in its voice; but with uplifted finger, still pointing heavenward, and whispering 'Listen to the still small voice.' Our prayers have continually ascended for you and yours."

The Rev. W. N. Burr, of Corona, California, wrote at once after receiving the issue for April 26th: "When the earthquake news began to pour in one of the first thoughts at our house was for The Pacific. But we heard not a word until last night when the four-page Pacific reached us. Now that we know how to address you, I send just a hurriedly-written note this morning to say 'Be of good cheer.' When we know something more of your plans we shall try a little harder, if possible, to help you to make The Pacific what it ought to be."

From Mr. J. S. Painter, of Pacific Grove, came the following: "We were so glad to get The Pacific this week. It never seemed larger or better."

From C. H. Longfellow, of Pasadena, came a letter which said: "I send a gift to help toward getting The Pacific reestablished."

From Mr. Justus L. Cozad, of Cleveland, Ohio, the following winged its way westward: "I enclose you a ten-dollar check to pay for the first year subscription of your paper, beginning with the Berkeley issue. My wife joins me in the hope that you may continue to make The Pacific indispensable to us."

At the meeting of the ministers on Monday, the Rev. Mr. Charnock stated that the appearance of the paper at San Jose had cheered and inspired many; and the Rev. R. B. Cherington stated that he and his wife had looked for it longingly and rejoiced greatly to see it and to learn that it was to continue.

Why, it may be asked, do we give these words from these various sources? It is for this reason: If The Pacific is to live with the years, and do its work as it ought to do it, there must be a wider knowledge of its value. The earthquake has shaken some who were careless about renewing their subscriptions to a sense of their duty. It is to be hoped that hundreds who do not take it and read it will in some manner be so shaken as to be brought to realize that they have not done their duty to the paper.

What The Pacific wants above all things else is subscribers.

NOTES.

The theological seminaries have decided that it will not be wise to have the summer school of theology.

Property in Oakland owned by the Pacific Theological Seminary was damaged by the earthquake to the extent of $10,000 or $15,000.

The Rev. H. M. Tenney reports the loss to the American Board in the burning of his rooms in the Y. M. C. A. Building as amounting to $500.

The Congregational ministers of San Francisco and vicinity voted unanimously that it was not advisable to hold the State Christian Endeavor Convention in Berkeley this year.

The Rev. E. J. Singer and family were among the San Franciscans who took refuge for one night in Golden Gate Park. Later they reached Oakland. Mrs. Singer and daughter, Miss Carrie, are now in Los Angeles, where the mother of Mrs. Singer is ill.

Pastors will confer a favor by stating in their church bulletins or from the pulpit that The Pacific has no mailing list later than the first week in February, and that information is wanted from all subscribers who have changed their addresses since that date, if they are not now receiving the paper.

The following came from the Rev. F. M. Washburn, of Lodi: "I was very glad to get the folio copy of The Pacific from Berkeley, and to note your courage and hopefulness. I wish you would send me the list of subscribers at Lodi. God bless you and The Pacific."

A movement for the raising of $750,000 to aid the Methodist churches in this part of California has been inaugurated in the East. The official force of the church is back of the movement, and it will succeed. A Methodist friend remarked to the present writer the other day. "Here is one of the good features of connectionalism."

It is highly significant that persons of wealth in the East are offering for some pieces of San Francisco realty the same prices which they offered for it before the fire. Far sighted men see that what was done in Chicago, in Galveston, and in Baltimore will be done here, and that far higher values than any yet known will in a few years be put upon the desirable business locations in the city by the Golden Gate. Eventually no one who is able to go ahead and rebuild will lose anything by the fire in the business portion of San Francisco.

The Rev. William Horace Day, of Los Angeles, expresses the hope that the Pacific Coast Congress may give an opportunity "which can be utilized by distributing a circular stating the work of The Pacific" and calling upon the people to rally to its support. That is what is needed—a rallying to the support of the paper on the part of the people. If Pacific Coast people were as loyal to the paper as they should be, its hardest problems would be solved. We have tried every way for years to bring them to such loyalty. Such testimony as we give elsewhere in this issue shows how the paper is regarded by many; but the indifference of others is very disheartening.

It is gratifying to see San Francisco daily papers, such as The Chronicle, calling attention to the absence of crime in that city and attributing it to the fact that the saloons are closed. A strong argument is being piled up daily against the liquor traffic. The mayor of Oakland, to his shame, has allowed the saloons to reopen. But this, although to be deplored, has served by contrast to strengthen the argument against the detestable traffic. The signs are that the saloons will never again be so strongly intrenched in San Francisco as they were before the 18th of April. The earthquake has shaken the foundations of the liquor traffic somewhat, and for that gratitude is due.

Among the persons writing to enquire concerning The Pacific after the earthquake and the fire, was the Rev. H. E. Banham, of Highland, who said: "There is a feeling of deep sorrow at the loss which has overtaken The Pacific. If we can be of use to you in this hour, please write me. I sincerely hope the good old paper may be put on its feet again, and that out of all the wreck there may come a blessing, we at present cannot observe." Our reply to Mr. Banham was that what we wanted most of all was subscribers—to get The Pacific into the homes where it ought to go for their own good and the good of the cause which it represents. If only we can accomplish this we shall be thankful—not for the earthquake, but for that and whatever else of good may come from it.

AMONG THE CHURCHES

Twenty-six persons were welcomed into the fellowship of the First Congregational Church of Berkeley last Sunday, eight on confession of faith.

Twenty-four persons were added to the membership of the First Church of Los Angeles on Easter Sunday. The enrollment is now 1,612.

The Swedish Congregational Church of Los Angeles is building a new house of worship.

The church at Martinez welcomed five persons to its fellowship on Sunday, April the 29th, three on confession. Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens made them a gift of money as they were about to depart for Oroville to enter on the work there.

Olivet Church, Los Angeles, has assumed self-support. Of the 150 members there are only twelve who were connected with the church when the Rev. B. F. Boller took charge about three years ago. Such are the changes, making one of the problems with which the churches have to do on the Pacific Coast.

The church at Redwood received eleven persons to membership on Easter Sunday, eight of the number on confession.

The North Berkeley Church added four to its membership last Sunday. Three Chinese were received recently at a special service at which the Rev. Jee Gam assisted.

The Rev. J. R. and Mrs. Knodell, of Everett, Washington, arrived in Berkeley last Thursday, where they plan to remain for a few months. Mr. Knodell resigned recently the pastorate at Everett because of a needed rest from the arduous work of such a church as the one at Everett. The people were not inclined to accept the resignation, and the way will be left open for six months for him to return. Mr. and Mrs. Knodell have taken rooms in the Barker Block on the corner of Shattuck and Dwight Way, in Berkeley, and Mr. Knodell has entered into engagement to act as Mr. Barker's representative in that building, etc., for a few months.

"Know
That He who gave us life ordained us law.
Law! and is law then but to bind and freeze?
By law the lightning spurts and the earth quakes,
And the spring surges through a million buds;
And law is filled with rushings and with thunder."